

CLAIMS

1. A payback system for making payback to
a product user or a middleman when a service is
5 received by using a product distributed by a product
manufacturer or the middleman, characterized by:
storage means for storing use results of
the service received by the product user by using
the product; and
10 calculation means for calculating a
payback value or payback values to one or both of
the product user and the middleman based on said
storage means.
- 15 2. The payback system as claimed in claim
1, characterized in that:
the product is an information-processing
product; and
the service is provided by means of the
20 information-processing product.
3. A payback method for making payback to
a product user or a middleman when a service is
received by using a product distributed by a product
25 manufacturer or the middleman, characterized by the
steps of:
storing use results of the service
received by the product user by using the product;
and
30 calculating a payback value or payback
values to one or both of the product user and the
middleman based on the stored use results.
- 35 4. A payback system in which a customer
receives a product directly or via a middleman from
a product provider or a product and service provider,
and receives a service from a service provider or

the product and service provider by using the product, characterized by:

storage means for storing use results of the service received by the customer by using the product; and

determination means for determining a payback value or payback values of the product to one or both of the customer and the middleman.

5. The payback system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that:

the product is an information-processing product; and

the service is provided by means of the information-processing product.

6. A network service payback system for making payback to a distributor of an information-processing product having a network connection function, the information-processing product being distributed to a customer so that a network service is provided for payment to the customer by means of the information-processing product, the network service payback system characterized by:

distribution channel storage means for storing the distributor of the information-processing product, the distributor being correlated with information-processing product identification information for identifying the information-processing product;

information-processing product information storage means for storing customer identification information for identifying the customer and the information-processing product identification information registered with a network service provider by the customer, the customer identification information being correlated with the

payback calculation means for calculating a payback value to be paid to the distributor by the network service provider based on the customer identification information stored in the information-processing product information storage means so as to be correlated with the information-processing product identification information stored in the distribution channel storage means and on use result information of the network service, the use result information being separately collected and correlated with the customer identification information.

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distribution channel storage means for storing the distributor of the information-processing product, the distributor being correlated

information-processing product information
5 storage means for storing customer identification
information for identifying the customer and the
information-processing product identification
information registered with a network service
provider by the customer, the customer
10 identification information being correlated with the
information-processing product identification
information; and

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30 a storage device storing use results of
the service received by the product user by using
the product; and

a calculation device calculating a payback value or payback values to one or both of the product user and the middleman based on said storage device.

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the service is provided by means of the information-processing product.

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the service is provided by means of the information-processing product.

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5 an information-processing product
information storage device storing customer
identification information for identifying the
customer and the information-processing product
identification information registered with a network
10 service provider by the customer, the customer
identification information being correlated with the
information-processing product identification
information; and

15. The network service payback system as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the use result information is a charge for use of the network service by the customer.

16. The network service payback system as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the use result information is a period of registration of the customer with the network service.